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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, is it not possible to give facilities for this type of hullers and get them substituted for the foreign hullers that we are getting? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" This question does not arise for the reason that these hullers that are now being in use are very different from the Rama hullers that was designed. It was a small machine worked by two people and the turnover was very small. They were originally intended to be introduced in villages but the cost of production was so very high that it was not possible to continue with it."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that big power worked machines are also manufactured in the Government workshops? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir. The Government had to give up this work of manufacturing power driven machines since the scheme did not work."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Due to the shortage of labour even in those selected firka areas will the Government issue instructions to the Collectors of the district to use their discretion in the matter of granting these licences? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The idea of the Government is to introduce handpounded rice because it is feasible that such handpounded rice can be produced in the villages concerned. That is why firkas were selected and were asked to use handpounded rice. The Government therefore thought it unnecessary to introduce big hullers and this experiment will continue for three months more after which the whole thing will be reviewed."

* 99 Q.—

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am afraid the answer is rather long and if you would permit, Sir, I would like to have this typed and circulated on the next day of the sitting of the Council."

(Postponed.)

*Purchase of gunny bags by the Civil Supplies Department.*

* 100 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Civil Supplies Department purchases a large quantity of empty gunnies of various sizes;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the quantity purchased till now is;

(c) whether tenders are called for the supply of gunnies;

(d) whether a firm in Vizagapatam was asked to supply a large number of gunnies without calling for tenders, and, if so, what the quantity and cost of these gunnies were; and

(e) What considerations influenced the Government to give up the tender system? "

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Civil Supplies Department has entered into a contract with the Chittavalasa and Nellimarla Jute Mills, Vizagapatam, who had undertaken to supply 9,200 bales of new gunnies of 37 inches by 24 inches size, each bale containing 400 gunnies. The prices of these gunnies are as follows :—

| Quantity. | | Price. |
|---|---|---|
| 4,600 bales | .. | Rs. 74–15–2 per 100 gunnies (February—March delivery). |
| 4,600 bales | .. | Rs. 73–5–8 per 100 gunnies (April—May delivery). |

In order to supplement the stocks of new gunnies the Government sanctioned a scheme for the recovery of second-hand gunnies which might be used again in the distribution of foodgrains. Under this scheme the Civil Supplies Department recovered from the retailers and major establishments in Madras City about 27,000 used gunnies. This scheme has since been wound up.

" (*c*) Tenders for the supply of gunnies have not been called for by the Civil Supplies Department so far. As regards the contract for the purchase of new gunnies referred to in the answer to clause (*b*) the Civil Supplies Department entered into a direct contract with the mills in question as they were the biggest producers of gunnies in the Province and as the terms offered by them were reasonable.

" (*d*) The Civil Supplies Department did not place any order with any firm in Vizagapatam for the supply of gunnies other than the contract mentioned in the answer to clause (*b*).

" (*e*) The answer to this clause has already been furnished in the reply to clause (*c*)."

*Number of people jailed for prohibition offences.*

* 101 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of people jailed for prohibition offences; and

(*b*) their daily avocations and trades and the percentage of ryots and agricultural labourers among them?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The information required[a] by the hon. Member is laid on the table of the House."

*Housing Societies.*

* 102 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Housing Societies have been established;

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a Printed as Appendix III on page 563 infra.